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Hungarian Author Sándor Márai Featured in Exhibit at Central Library

Márai Died in San Diego in 1989 at the Age of 88

SAN DIEGO – An exhibit about writer Sándor Márai is on display at the Central Library through March. The exhibit includes information and photographs of the author as well as copies of his books.

Márai was born in Kassa, in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, in 1900. He rose to fame as one of the leading literary novelists in Hungary in the 1930s. Profoundly antifascist, he survived World War II, but was persecuted by the Communists. His books were suppressed, even destroyed, and he was forced to flee his country in 1948, first to Italy, then to the United States. Today his books are considered classics of modern European literature. Márai lived in San Diego from 1980-89.

He is the author of a body of work now being rediscovered and all of Márai's novels are now slated for American publication. Some of the author's works include "Embers," "Casanova in Bolzano," and "Memoir of Hungary, 1944-48." "Embers" is being made into a film starring Winona Ryder and directed by Milos Forman.

Opening remarks for the exhibit were made by John Ridland, a professor of England at the University of California, San Diego. Among those attending the ceremony were family members of the author.

Coordinated and sponsored by the San Diego House of Hungary in Balboa Park and the Petofi Literary Museum in Budapest with a grant from Hungary's Foreign Affairs Minister, the exhibit is on display on the second floor of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego. The Central Library is open Monday and Wednesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. For information, call 619-236-5800 or visit the Library on the City's Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/>.

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